

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXXXX
By email

**Force Disclosure Unit
Police Headquarters**
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date 13th April 2026

Our Ref FOI 2026-307

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18th March 2026, concerning Public Order Act arrests.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to handle all requests in a manner that is blind as to the identity and motives of the requestor. Any information released as a response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

Following receipt of your request, research was conducted by the Business Intelligence department at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

From all arrests in the calendar year 2024 recorded by Wiltshire Police, where any of the following offences is recorded on the custody record (whether as the main or a secondary offence):

- Section 4A Public Order Act 1986
- Section 5 Public Order Act 1986
- Section 18 Public Order Act 1986
- Section 19 Public Order Act 1986
- Section 20 Public Order Act 1986
- Section 21 Public Order Act 1986
- Section 22 Public Order Act 1986
- Section 23 Public Order Act 1986
- Section 29B Public Order Act 1986
- Section 29C Public Order Act 1986
- Section 29D Public Order Act 1986
- Section 29E Public Order Act 1986
- Section 29F Public Order Act 1986
- Section 29G Public Order Act 1986

please select up to 40 arrests using the following method:

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

- Order all of the eligible arrests in 2024 by date, starting with the first that occurred in 2024
- Pick out every third arrest, starting with the first of the year (i.e. arrest one, arrest four, arrest seven, arrest 10 etc.)
- Do this until you have reached the bottom of the list, or selected 40 arrests, or selected the maximum number of arrests allowed within the cost limit of this request
- If you reach the bottom of the list before exceeding 40 arrests/the cost limit, please return to the top of the list and repeat this process, starting with the second arrest of the year (i.e. arrest two, arrest five, arrest eight, arrest 11 etc.)
- If you reach the bottom of the list again before exceeding 40 arrests/the cost limit, please return to the top of the list and repeat this process, starting with the third arrest of the year (i.e. arrest three, arrest six, arrest nine, arrest 12 etc.)

If, for any reason, this method is not practicable, please simply select the first 40 eligible arrests by date in 2024. If you do this, please state that you have.

For each arrest in the sample, please provide:

1. An anonymised reference (e.g. A1, A2, A3 etc.)
2. The date of the arrest (month and year only, e.g. May 2024)
3. Which of the above offences is recorded (any of the sections of the Public Order Act listed above)
4. Any other offences that are recorded
5. The existing short "offence summary" / "crime summary" / "custody record description" / "modus operandi (MO)" text (or equivalent field) that describes the conduct

Our response:

Please see the table below. Note:-

- The offence summaries (MO field) have been sanitised, where required, to avoid identification of individuals involved.
- We cannot get data for the specific sections of the Public Order Act 1986 as requested. The only sections that can be selected in isolation are section 18, section 19 and section 4A.

I am satisfied that all the relevant information has been passed to me and been considered in the light of your request within the time constraints applicable under the legislation.

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

Yours sincerely,

FDU Decision Maker

	Date of Arrest	HO Code	Offence Description	Act	Other Offences Recorded	Other Offences Recorded Description	Occ Summary
A1	Oct-24	66/23	Use of words or behaviour or display or written material - Acts intended to stir up racial hatred	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 18	125/12	Harassment, alarm or distress	Known male has hand painted swastikas on a public facing fence
A2	Jan-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	None		Suspect has shouted at the IP calling them a "sex offender", a "thief" and shouting about IP's dead husband.
A3	Jan-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	8/30	Putting people in fear of violence	Male suspect has followed two children around Swindon town centre whilst touching himself in a sexual manner
A4	Jan-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	None		Known male is suspected to have committed an offence of public order Section 4A towards an officer on duty.
A5	Jan-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	None		Known male has threatened to slap the IP and has admitted to breaking his bail conditions.
A6	Feb-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	125/11	Fear or provocation of violence	Suspect has been refused entry to store and has called the IP a 'cunt' and said he would kill him.
A7	Apr-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	125/11	Fear or provocation of violence	The I.P has been threatened verbally by a known male whilst at work . The male said to the I.P "Im going to fucking get you" "Im going to smash your fucking face in and I will get you next time i see you !"
A8	Mar-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	None		Known male has driven past the IP and made threats to find the IP and come to her address, stating "NEXT TIME I SEE YOU, I'M GOING TO BEAT

							THE SHIT OUT OF YOU. YOU TOO , I'LL BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF YOU TOO."
A9	Mar-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	3/1	Threats to Kill	Known suspect has waved two screwdrivers in a public place towards the suspect and threatened to kill them.
A10	Mar-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	None		Unknown suspect has approached female and followed her from the shop to the nearby traffic light. He has made sexual comments to her and offered money in return for sexual activity. Male has been persistent and scared the IP.
A11	Apr-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	125/11	Fear or provocation of violence	A patient has threatened the IP stating that he had killed before and had a knife. No weapon seen. The suspect left prior to being treated stating he was going to go and kill himself.
A12	Apr-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	66/1	Affray	Known suspect has brandished a 'rambo style knife' out of his front door and shouted "I'll come down there and shank you".
A13	Apr-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	None		Known suspect has called the IP a paedophile and threatened to "GET" him.
A14	Apr-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	79/4	Intimidation or intending to intimidate a witness	Known male suspect has seen the IP and started to shout and swear. The suspect has threatened to slit the IP's throat. This has intimidated the IP.
A15	Jun-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	3/1	Threats to Kill	Known suspect has become verbally abusive and threatened to kill the IP.
A16	May-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	None		Known male has made 'wanker' hand gestures towards the IP and made comments about him out loud so that

							he could hear such as: 'HE TAKES IT FROM BEHIND YOU KNOW', 'YOU'RE A TOSSER - GET A HAIRCUT'.
A17	May-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	None		Known suspect has entered the business and made several racist comments and been abusive towards customers and staff.
A18	May-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	None		Suspect made threat to cut the IP's throat
A19	May-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	None		Known female has approached the IP and came close to IP's face and stated "I will take you and your boyfriend down!" Female has then continued shouting when IP has gone inside. Whilst in custody, seen by MH professionals and subsequently detained S136 MHA
A20	May-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	None		Suspect has aggressively approached the RP who had said he had nothing to say but to leave him and his friend alone, The suspect has then became aggressive and threatening saying "THE ONLY PERSON IN THE VILLAGE THAT SHOULD BE SCARED OF ME IS YOU. I WILL COME BACK AGAIN. YOU NEED TO WATCH YOUR BACK"
A21	May-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	None		Known male suspect has stood outside of IP's door and shouting and scraping a knife along the door.
A22	May-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	71/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	Male arrested for Sexual Communication with a child after report of him following a yr old girl and making comments about liking

							to see girls intimate parts and masturbating over them.
A23	Jul-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	8/31	Breach of a restraining order issued on conviction	Known suspects have breached their restraining orders by doing the "CUT THROAT SIGN" towards the IP. Breach of Restraining Order.
A24	Jun-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	None		The suspect has shouted at the IP words such as RAT and BALD CUNT. This has caused the IP distress.
A25	Jul-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	8/23	Possessing firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence	Known suspect has been seen on the centre of a roundabout pointing a plastic toy gun at passing traffic.
A26	Jul-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	None		Known suspect has called the IP a 'ginger cunt' and used threatening words while under arrest resulting in suspect being further arrested for public order.
A27	Jul-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	None		Known suspect has shouted at IP, "I am going to shank you" in the street causing the IP to fear violence.
A28	Jul-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	None		Known female suspect has shouted out at the IP "You dirty little grass, you dirty little grass!" while in a public place causing fear and intimidation.
A29	Aug-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	125/11	Fear or provocation of violence	Known male and female suspects have approached IP and her brother accusing and threatening her, IP tried to explain and they started screaming at her about a rumour they raised. The male suspect said if IP said one word about he would smash her head in. Causing IP to feel she was going to be physically assaulted if it

							had not been for the customers nearby at a cafe.
A30	Aug-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	None		Known suspect has been banging on the IP's door and shouting at the IP.
A31	Aug-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	None		Known male was brandishing a lock key at IP and called them "cunts", whilst possibly intoxicated. IP is alarmed by this behaviour
A32	Aug-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	8/6	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	Male has assaulted the IP causing injury to her eye. Male also arrested for drunk and disorderly
A33	Aug-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	149/58	Other criminal damage to a residence - under £5000	Known suspect has attended the location and punched several holes into the wall.
A34	Aug-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	149/58	Other criminal damage to a residence - under £5000	Officers have attended report of a male smashing up a car with an axe. Male located and Arrested for C/Damage- further Arrested for Affray due to waving the axe around in public.
A35	Sep-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	None		A known suspect is being aggressive and trying to start fights and making threats. The suspect had been in the pub for around 30 mins.
A36	Sep-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	8/66	Stalking involving serious alarm/distress	Known male was stalking IP for 30 minutes, from the train station to IP's address. IP in fear looped around to Premier Inn rather than her home address.
A37	Oct-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	None		Unknown male has been shouting and screaming in the street, he was heard saying he hates kids and swearing which frightened the R/P.

A38	Oct-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	125/11 3/1	Fear or provocation of violence Threats to Kill	Known suspect has stated to IP working at the location he will "come back after work and stab him". Prior to this the suspect and 4 other males were causing a disorder before apologising and leaving.
A39	Oct-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	None		Known male Suspect has shouted at IP to "fuck off" during an altercation at a spa causing IP to leave.
A40	Oct-24	125/9	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A	None		Known Suspect has called IP a "Faggot" during arrest

Wiltshire Police offers a re-examination of your case under its review procedure.



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2DN



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Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from Wiltshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing to the:

Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police Headquarters,
London Road, Devizes,
Wiltshire,
SN10 2DN

Email at disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk.

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Force Disclosure Unit within 20 working days of the Force's response to the original Fol request.

3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing to include confirmation of the reasons for the review. The review will be conducted by another Decision Maker, who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Force Disclosure Unit will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The Independent Decision Maker will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the Independent Decision Maker will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following details:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 700
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Please note that the ICO's offices will be closed for the foreseeable future and are therefore unable to receive correspondence via post.

If you should wish to contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>